

REMARKS

In the outstanding office action, claims 1-28 were presented for examination. Claims 3-9, 18 and 19 were withdrawn from consideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b) as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1, 2, 10-17 and 20-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,625,244 to Bradfield in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,254,896 to Bradfield et al.

Applicants would like to thank the examiner for his time to discuss the art of record on September 10, 2002.

Pursuant to the discussion with the examiner on September 10, 2002, applicants have amended the claims to structurally distinguish the same from the prior art.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the slip ring is a replacement for an original slip ring. Support for this limitation is found on pages 4 and 5 of the application, as filed, as well as claims 10, 11, 27 and 28 of the application. Moreover, the retaining members of claim 1, as amended, are ultrasonically welded to the fan to provide a point of securement of the replacement slip ring.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a fan and slip ring assembly having among other elements a retaining member, which provide a means for securing a replacement slip ring to the fan after an original slip ring has been removed. More specifically, the retaining member of claim 1 is specifically designed to provide a means for securing the coil leads and the slip ring coupling terminals to the fan once an original point of securement has been broken (e.g., the removal of the original slip ring). In fact, claim 1 is directed to a fan and slip ring assembly

having a pair of retaining members for providing a means for securing the replacement coupling terminals to the fan once an original point of securement of the type embodied in Figure 3 of the '896 patent has been broken.

Similarly, claim 2 has been amended to recite that the slip ring is a replacement for an original slip ring. Support for this limitation is found on pages 4 and 5 of the application, as filed, as well as claims 10, 11, 27 and 28 of the application. Additionally, the retaining member of claim 2, as amended, is ultrasonically welded to the fan to provide a point of securement of the replacement slip ring.

Claim 2, as amended, is directed to a fan and slip ring assembly having a retaining member which provides a means for securing a replacement slip ring to the fan after an original slip ring has been removed. More specifically, the retaining member of claim 2 is specifically designed to provide a means for securing the coil leads and the slip ring leads to the fan once an original heat staked point of securement has been broken (e.g., the removal of the original slip ring).

In addition, claim 2 is directed to a fan and slip ring assembly having a retaining member for providing a means for securing the replacement coupling terminals to the fan once an original point of securement of the type embodied in Figure 3 of the '896 patent has been broken.

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to conform the same claims 2 and 1, respectively. Similarly claim 13 has been amended accordingly.

Claim 17 has been amended to replace "being the location of the securement of a lead of said original slip ring" to --comprising a portion of an original heat staking location of said original slip ring assembly--. Support for this

limitation is at least found on page 5, lines 9-18 and Figure 17, of the specification as filed.

Claims 27 and 28 have been amended to conform the same to claim 2. In addition, claims 27 and 28 have been amended to recite that said point of securement to said fan is in substantially the same location as the original slip ring. Support for this limitation is found on at least found on page 5, lines 9-18 and Figure 17, of the specification as filed.

In addition, applicant has amended "securement caps" and/or "retaining caps" of claims 1, 11, 14, 15 and 17 to "retaining member" to make explicit what was implicit in the claims.

The outstanding office action asserts that Bradfield et al. teaches a pair of securement caps in Figure 3, however, in view of the amendments to claims 1 and 2 as identified above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 2 are allowable over the art of record as claims 1 and 2 are directed to apparatus for dealing with the inherent problems of the permanent point of securement illustrated in Figure 3 of Bradfield et al. More specifically, and in order to replace the slip rings of the device in Bradfield, the permanent point of securement is broken and cannot be used to secure leads of a replacement slip ring. Claims 1 and 2, and the claims dependent therefrom are directed to an apparatus for securing replacement contacts of a replacement slip ring to the fan once the permanent type of original point of securement (Bradfield et al.) has been broken. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Bradfield and Bradfield et al. are no longer applicable to the claims, as amended.

The limitation of the slip rings being a replacement for an original slip ring, was initially claimed in at least claims 10, 11, 27 and 28 thus, the

limitations of claims 1 and 2, as amended, were before the examiner in the last office action and do not constitute new subject matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 10-17 and 20-28 are allowable over the references cited.

New claims 29 and 30 have been added to more particularly define aspects of the present application. Claims 29 and 30 have been carefully written to avoid any questions under 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, it is also believed that new claims 29 and 30 are also in a condition for allowance.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants enclose herewith new formal drawings amended in accordance with the guidelines of the outstanding office action. More specifically, the legend "Prior Art" has been added to drawings 1, 2, 3, 4 and 17. However, applicants respectfully traverse the requirement for the legend in Figures 5-11 and 15-16 as they relate to the securement of a replacement slip ring. In addition, applicant has amended "securement caps" and/or "retaining caps" of claims 1, 11, 14, 15 and 17 to "retaining member". However, applicants respectfully submit that the usage of securement caps and retaining member is fully supported by the specification, page 2, line 24 and the drawings (informal and formal) filed in the instant application. Nevertheless, applicants have made the above amendments to avoid confusion between the two terms. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the drawing objections be withdrawn.

IN THE SPECIFICAION:

Applicants have amended the title in accordance with the guidelines of the outstanding office action.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, he is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

If there are any charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

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